GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:314
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
PRINTING OF DETAILS ON PACKETS
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made it mandatory to print weight and expiry date on the packets of packaged items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to ensure compliance of the said orders by the manufacturing companies;and

(d) the details and nature of penal action taken against the violators?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION(SHRI TASLIMUDDIN)

(a) & (b): The provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules,1977 require among other things declaration of net weight and date of manufacture or packing or import of the commodity contained in the package, as the case may be. Expiry date is required only on the package of aspartame and infant food as well as drugs under the provisions of Prevention of Food and Adulteration Act,1954 and Drugs and Cosmetics Act,1940 respectively.

(c) & (d): Enforcement authorities of concerned States/UTs inspect the premises of manufacturer, packer, importer, retailer as well as draw samples regularly to ensure compliance. Under the provisions Packaged Commodities Rules, non declaration of 'net weight' attract a fine of Rs 5000 for the first offence and for the second or subsequent offence, imprisonment which may extend to 5 years and also with fine. Similarly action is taken for non declaration of 'expiry date' under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act,1954 and Drugs and Cosmetics Act ,1940.